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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 5450.90C
OP-952

23 MAY 1984

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5450.90C

From: Chief of Naval Operations


Subj: Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.; mission and functions of

Ref: (a) OPNAVNOTE 5450 Ser 09B2E3/309541 of 24 February 1984

Encl: (1) Functions assigned to the Naval Observatory

1. Purpose. To promulgate the functions to be performed by the Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C. (NAVOBSY) in support of the mission promulgated by reference (a).
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5450.90B
3. Mission. To determine the positions and motions of celestial bodies, the motions of the earth, and precise time. To provide the astronomical and timing data required by the Navy and other components of the Department of Defense for navigation, precise positioning, and command, control and communications. To make these data available to other government agencies and to the general public. To conduct relevant research; and to perform such other functions or tasks as may be directed by higher authority.
4. Status and Command Relationships. The Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C. is a shore activity in an active status under the Superintendent, Naval Observatory and under the command of the Chief of Naval Operations. The Naval Observatory is subject to the area coordination authority of the Commandant, Naval District Washington.
5. Action. In the accomplishment of the assigned mission, the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory shall ensure performance of the functions set forth in enclosure (1). The Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, superiors in the chain of command, and the Commandant, Naval District Washington are requested to advise the Chief of Naval Operations of any recommended modifications of the mission or functions of the Naval Observatory.

Distribution:
(See page 2)


C. R. BELL

Deputy Director
Naval Warfare

OPNAVINST 5450.90C

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Functions of the
Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.

Functions: In carrying out this mission, the Superintendent, Naval Observatory shall direct and supervise all components, programs, and activities of the Naval Observatory, including the main Observatory facility in Washington, D. C., the Flagstaff Station in Flagstaff, AZ, the Time Service Substation in Richmond, FL, and the Black Birch Astrometric Observatory in Blenheim, New Zealand, in performing the following functions:

1. Develop and implement policies, plans and programs to promote the operational effectiveness, efficiency, and security of the Naval Observatory.
2. Make regular observations of the sun, moon, planets, selected stars, and other celestial bodies to determine their positions and motions.
3. Derive, publish, and distribute the astronomical data required for accurate navigation, operational support, and fundamental positional astronomy.
4. Manage and provide interservice support for the distribution of astronomical data within the Department of Defense.
5. Derive, maintain, and provide precise time and time interval (frequency), both atomic and astronomical, for the Navy and other components of the Department of Defense.
6. Manage the distribution of precise time by means of timed navigation and communications transmissions and portable clocks, and provide interservice support for precise time for the Department of Defense.
7. Conduct a research program to improve both the accuracy and the methods of determining and providing the astronomical and timing data required by the Navy and the Department of Defense.
8. Collaborate worldwide with astronomers for the exchange of astronomical and timing data in order to obtain information required by the Naval Observatory.
9. Broaden the understanding within the Navy, other components of the Department of Defense, other government agencies, and the general public as to the mission, functions, and programs of the Naval Observatory.

Enclosure (1)